



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Spokane District Office
1103 N. Fancher
Spokane, Washington 99212

January 2003



Spokane District Office Planning Update

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

BLM/OR/WA/PL-03/005+1792

Planning Update

SPOKANE DISTRICT OFFICE

JANUARY 2003

This planning update is part of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) public outreach to inform and involve the public in management of public lands in the state of Washington. The BLM's Spokane District is comprised of two resource areas (Border and Wenatchee, see Map 1). Border Resource Area manages land in the eastern part of the state and is co-located with the Spokane District Office. Wenatchee Resource Area manages land in the western part of the state and is located in Wenatchee.

The planning update summarizes accomplishments in 2001 and 2002 in major resource programs. The update also identifies projects proposed for FY2003 and beyond where known. The Environmental Assessment Register located near the end of the update lists those environmental assessments started or projected within the near future. This EA list lets the public know of future projects and provides an opportunity for public participation in their analysis and implementation process.

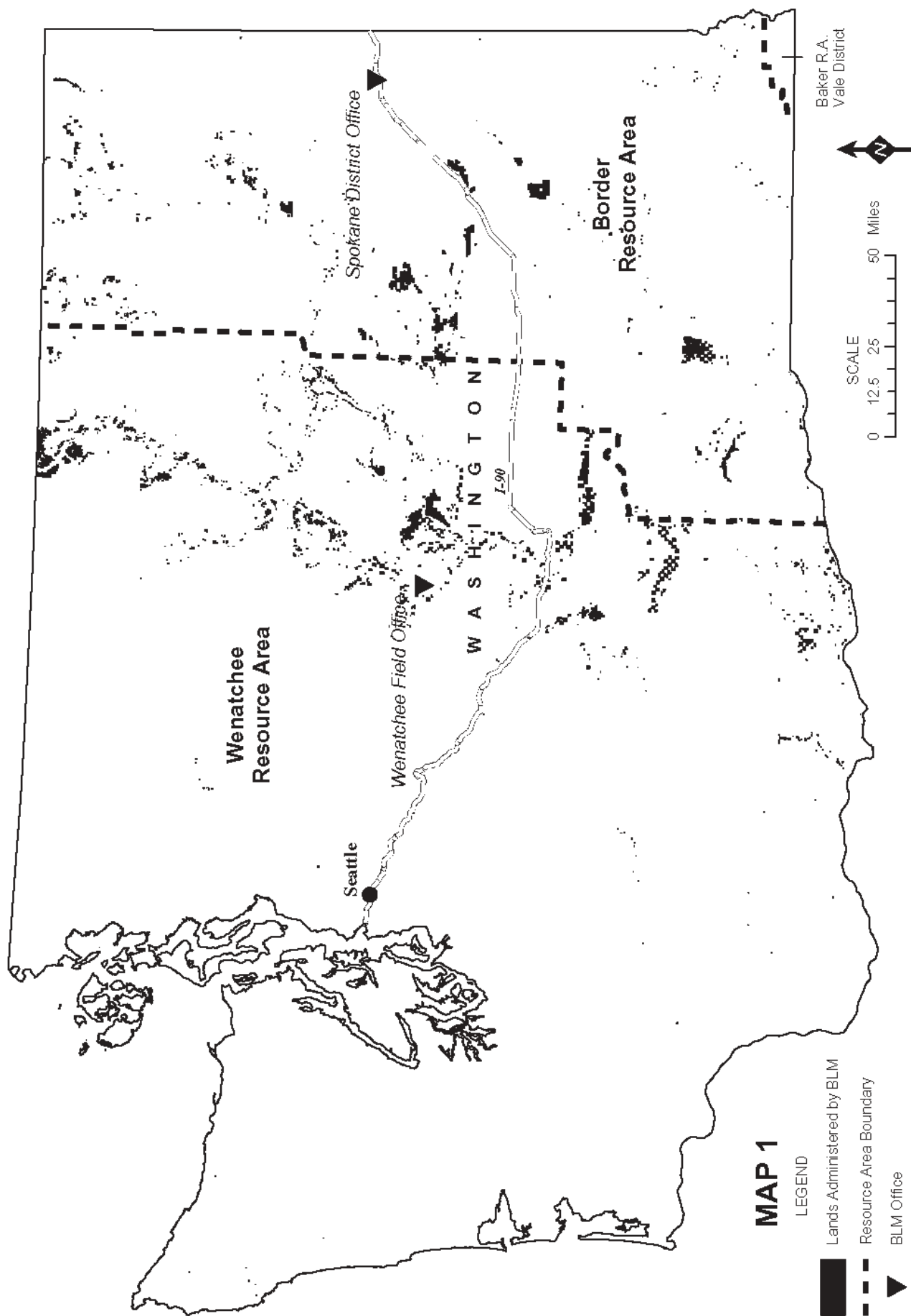
In the past few years, the BLM has been placing many planning and informational documents on the Internet to provide the public with ready access and updated information about various activities. The Spokane BLM District's website is: <www.or.blm.gov/spokane>. This update will also be available at that website. Anyone not having access to the Internet can notify our office if they have specific planning areas of interest.

Please feel free to submit comments or suggestions for improving this update to make it more useful to you.

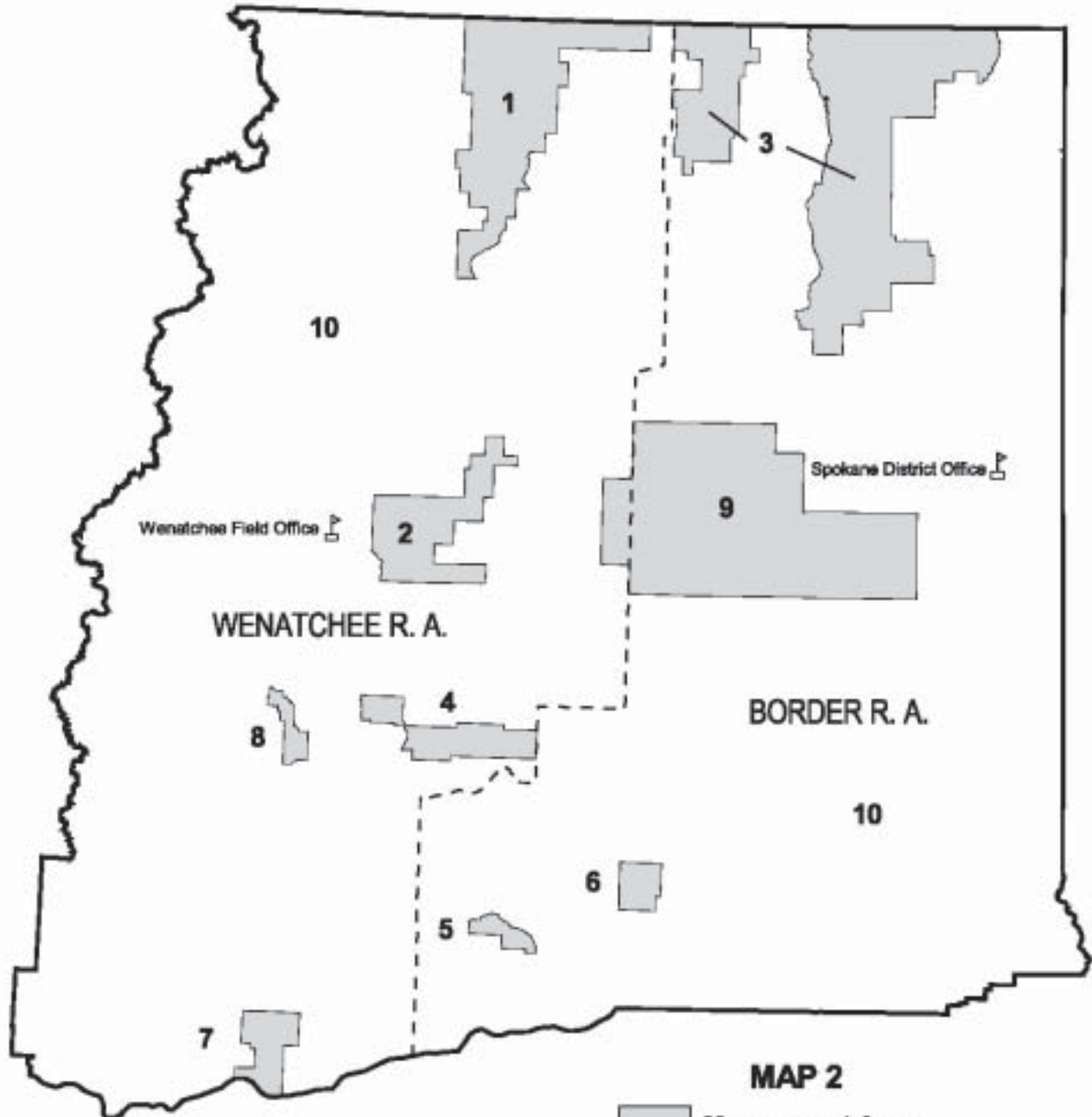
*Joseph K. Buesing
District Manager*

This mailer should bring you up-to-date with activities completed, planned, or in progress in both resource areas in the Spokane District. For additional information, contact the Bureau of Land Management, Attention: Kathy Helm, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Spokane District, 1103 N. Fancher, Spokane, WA 99212 (509/536-1200).

BLM Administered Lands in Spokane District



Spokane District Management Areas



MAP 2

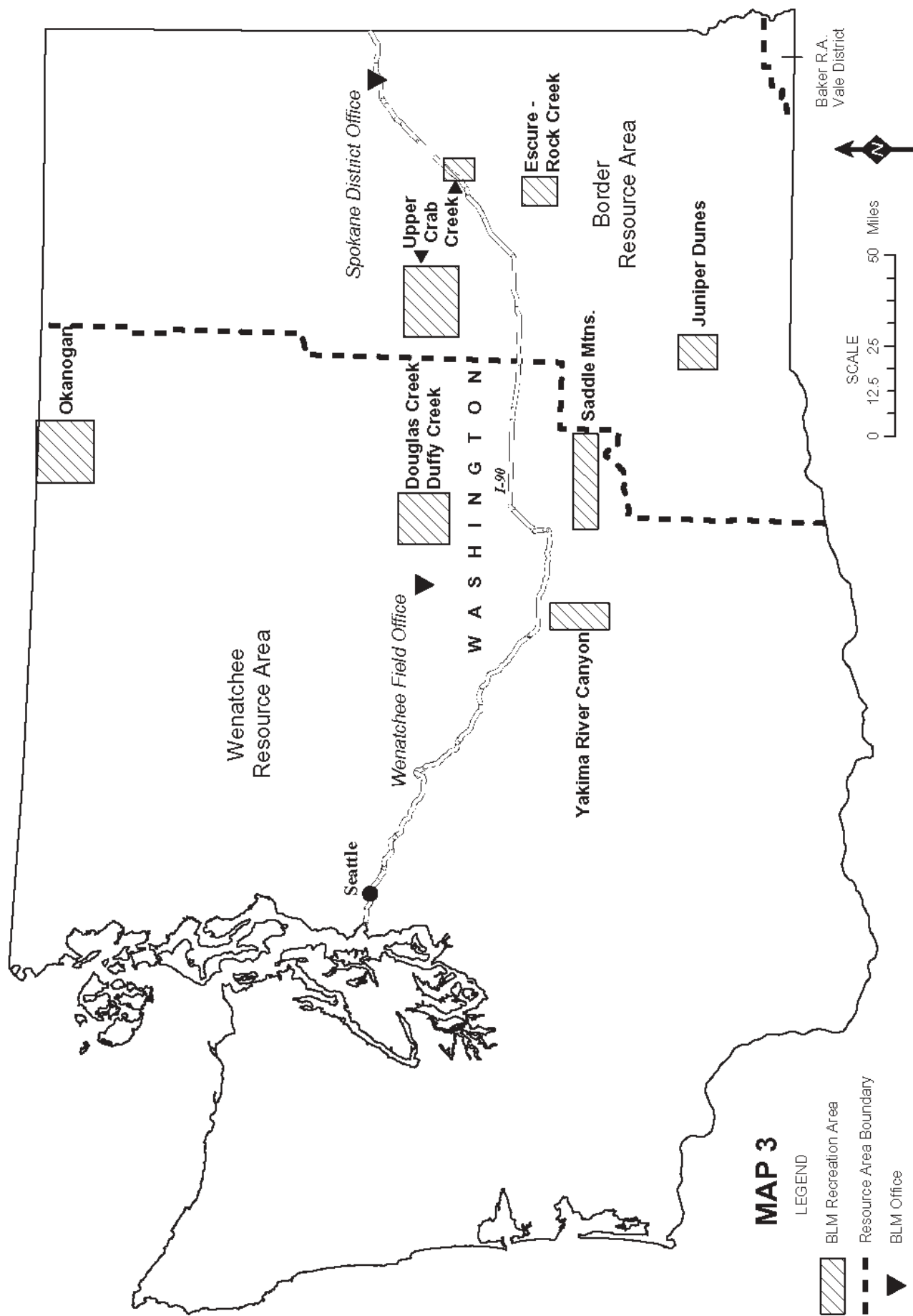


Management Areas

- 1 Okanogan
- 2 Moses Coulee
- 3 Northeast
- 4 Saddle Mountains
- 5 Badger Slope
- 6 Juniper Forest
- 7 Rock Creek
- 8 Yakima River Canyon
- 9 Upper Crab Creek
- 10 Scattered Tracts



Main Recreation Areas in Spokane District



Overview of Spokane BLM District

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has management responsibility for approximately 400,000 surface acres in the state of Washington, most of which are east of the Cascade Crest (Map 1). The public lands managed by BLM are grouped into 10 management areas: Okanogan, Moses Coulee, Northeast, Saddle Mountains, Badger Slope (sometimes referred to as Horse Heaven Hills), Juniper Forest, Rock Creek, Yakima River Canyon, Upper Crab Creek, and Scattered Tracts (see Map 2).

These lands are managed pursuant to a Resource Management Plan prepared in 1987 and updated in 1992. They include one wilderness area, one wilderness study area, 15 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and numerous areas managed principally for recreation, riparian, and wildlife values. Areas of high recreational use include sites in the Yakima River Canyon; the Juniper Dunes Wilderness and nearby off-highway vehicle (OHV) use area outside the Tri-Cities of Pasco, Richland and Kennewick; and the Channeled Scablands riparian areas just west of Spokane.

In addition to the lands under direct BLM jurisdiction, BLM administers mineral resources across another several hundred thousand acres of split-estate lands, more than one million acres of withdrawn and acquired lands, and mining and reclamation activities on several Indian reservations. There are more than 2,700 mining claims and 312 grazing leases on the public lands in Washington. Current initiatives include the review and approval of mining operations, mined land reclamation, land exchanges, and cooperative habitat restoration projects on more than 50,000 acres in central Washington.



Program Summaries and Accomplishments

Water and Air

Water Quality: Water quality and quantity analysis is done at some 60 sites, at both field and laboratory levels, including Upper Crab Creek, Palouse watershed, Moses Coulee, Similkameen and Kettle rivers, and Lower Columbia (Rock Creek). Twenty of these sites are maintained as permanent baseline stations with scheduled monitoring. The analysis includes testing for physical, chemical and bacteriological parameters. The surface water monitoring results are documented and available by request. Monitoring is done to support mine inspections, administrative facilities, and lake/wetland resources.

Air Resources: Information gathered from five Remote Automatic Weather Stations (RAWS) located on Spokane District public lands is available online year-round. The units provide valuable meteorological, hydrological and environmental data for the District's Fire Management, Hazardous Materials, Range, and Mining programs.

Water Rights: The District is also active in filing for water rights to put surface and ground water to beneficial use for irrigation, livestock watering, as well as to improve wildlife habitat and maintain wetland habitat.

Noxious Weeds and Pest Control

Noxious Weeds: An estimated 5,000 acres of noxious weed infestations are scattered on more than 400 parcels of public land within the Spokane District. The Spokane District Noxious Weed Control Environmental Assessments propose treatments on some 3,200 acres of land within 13 counties in eastern Washington and San Juan County in western Washington. To date, nearly all proposed project sites have been treated using chemical, biological, mechanical or cultural noxious weed control methods. Also, more than 600 acres have received follow-up weed control treatments. These weed control projects are coordinated with several counties, Washington Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Washington State University. Long-term maintenance is required at many sites.

District staff presents programs on education awareness, periodically has a display in Spokane and Wenatchee reception areas, and distributes materials on weed prevention. District staff coordinates weed treatments with various weed boards in 19 counties in eastern Washington, as well as San Juan and Skagit counties in western Washington, the Washington state Noxious Weed Control Board, and various tribes. In addition, the BLM coordinates with USDA/APHIS for development and distribution of biological (insects) noxious weed control

Pest Control: Portions of the Juniper Forest Management Area in Franklin County have been treated for Mormon Cricket infestations since early 1990s. The annual localized treatments focus on hatching beds and have significantly reduced cricket populations to a manageable level. This pest control is done on BLM-administered lands to protect crops of economic concern on adjacent private lands. Populations vary due to climatic conditions. Cricket infestations identified in the Saddle Mountains area (Grant County) will be addressed in the near future.

Recreation

Recreation Sites

Public land managed by BLM in Washington state is receiving increasing recreational use. More than 250,000 people visited 29 recreation sites in the Spokane District in FY 2001. An estimated 135,000 visited three BLM recreation sites in the Yakima Canyon alone. Most of the estimated recreation use takes place in the seven areas listed below:

- Yakima River Canyon (Roza, Lmuma Creek, Umtanum, Ringer Road, Cowiche Canyon, and The Slab)
- Juniper Forest, Juniper Dunes Wilderness
- Douglas and Duffy Creeks
- Saddle Mountains
- Okanogan (Split Rock, Palmer Mountain and Chopaka Lake)
- Upper Crab Creek Area (Lakeview Ranch, Twin Lakes, Coffeepot Lake, Fishtrap Lake, Hog Lake, Odessa Craters, and Wilson Creek)
- Rock Creek Ranch (Escure property)

These seven areas are shown on Map 3. With the scattered patterns of BLM ownership throughout the state, dispersed recreation use is difficult to estimate.

The Yakima Canyon area, Cowiche Canyon, Douglas Creek, Wilson Creek, and Fishtrap and Hog Lake sites have wildflower viewing areas.

An informational brochure for the Fishtrap area was published during 2001 and is available at both the Spokane and Wenatchee BLM offices. This brochure is also posted on the district's webpage: <www.or.blm.gov/spokane>. Brochures for four other recreation areas (Coffeepot, Lakeview, Palmer Mountain, and Twin Lakes) are in the publication process and will be available soon.

Yakima River Canyon

The three developed recreation sites that BLM manages along the Yakima River (Roza, Lmuma Creek, and Umtanum) are favorite recreation places for thousands of people each year. Most use occurs in the spring, summer and fall months and includes camping, picnicking, boating, rafting, fishing, hunting, bird watching, wildflower viewing, and sightseeing. Camping, picnicking, vault toilets and garbage collection are available at all three sites. A suspension bridge at Umtanum provides foot access to BLM areas and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife's wildlife recreation area on the west side of the river.

Free Fishing Day 2002-Coffeepot Lake.



In 2001, BLM acquired 20 acres at “The Slab,” an unimproved recreation site with high use along the Yakima River. The 2003 planning workload includes developing management direction for “The Slab” to include improvements for basic health and safety, sanitation, signing, and visitor access.

Juniper Dunes Wilderness and Juniper Forest

The *Juniper Dunes Wilderness* has few developments. Improvements include fences to designate wilderness boundaries and control livestock, wildlife watering cisterns, and visitor registration boxes.

Juniper Forest encompasses two designated use areas: an Area of Environmental Concern (ACEC) and an Open Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) area. Facilities are limited to informational signing, kiosks, a visitor registration box, and an unimproved trail system. Popular uses of this area include ATV/4WD and motorcycle use, as well as hiking and horseback riding.

There is no legal public access to the Juniper Dunes parcels. The Spokane District BLM recently acquired Section 15 in this area to resolve some of the access issues.

The OHV use in this area consists of 3,920 acres open to OHV use, and another 8,620 acres limited to designated roads and trails within the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). To inform OHV users what trails they can ride on, fiberglass posts labeled with “DESIGNATED TRAIL” stickers will be placed along the OHV-designated trails within the ACEC.

Douglas and Duffy Creeks

Douglas Creek continues to be a popular stream for native trout fishing. Other visitor activities at the site include picnicking, camping, hiking, swimming and hunting. The BLM is making progress on a trail along a former Burlington Northern railroad line extending from Alstown into the Douglas Creek Canyon. Two easements are needed to connect a scenic trail through the canyon. The trail will enhance visitor appeal in this area, which already attracts almost 15,000 visitors annually for all activities. In 2001, BLM began working with a local citizens group to make this railroad trail a reality. In July 2002, six students and three teachers camped at Douglas Creek for a week while they did trail clearing and used a Global Positioning System to map out the trail, weed infestations, and creek crossings. The students constructed a website detailing their experiences. In August 2002, a National Public Lands Day event was held along the Douglas Creek trail. Volunteers installed a bulletin board, interpretive sign and bench along the trail. Planning, trail clearing, and construction will continue in 2003.

At *Duffy Creek*, informational signing, pass gates, and road markings have been installed.

Saddle Mountains

The *Saddle Mountains* encompass 23,000 acres in southern Grant County, just east of the town of Mattawa. Primary recreation use here includes OHV, rock collecting, hang gliding, horseback riding, hiking, and mountain biking. The Saddle Mountain Recreation Management Plan, which is posted on the district web and is available at the Spokane and Wenatchee offices, defines areas open for casual use and identifies petrified rock collecting areas and other recreational opportunities.

Okanogan

The *Split Rock Recreation Site* is located in scenic Okanogan County on the southeast shore of Palmer Lake, which is popular for fishing and swimming. Facilities include: two vault toilets, a gravel parking lot, three picnic tables, the only sandy beach on the lake, and a concrete boat ramp. Because of repeated vandalism, BLM has increased patrols of this area and solicited community assistance to protect site investment. In 2002, local volunteers

purchased two concrete tables and installed them near the parking area. Planning was also completed for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife boat ramp installation. Future plans are to:

- Replace the beach picnic table.
- Coordinate with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to install a new boat ramp and floating dock.
- Remove trash dumpsters due to increasing amount of household waste being dumped at the site.

The 40-acre ***Chopaka Lake Recreation Site*** is located in a mountainous setting on the shores of Chopaka Lake, noted as one of Washington's best fly fishing lakes. This site is located adjacent to BLM's 5,518-acre ***Chopaka Mountain Wilderness Study Area***. Because of the site's primitive nature, its facilities are limited to an undeveloped camp area and a vault toilet. In 2003, planning will be done for repair of the campground entrance road and designating campsites. Four-foot tall pass gates will be installed to replace wire gates in the campground enclosure within the Wilderness Study Area.

The BLM manages about 7,600 acres on ***Palmer Mountain***. The area contains tiny Washburn Lake, which is annually stocked with trout. Facilities are limited to informational bulletin boards and road signs. Recreation use has primarily been associated with hunting and fishing. In 2002, planning was completed for road and campsite improvement. In 2003, roads and camping areas are planned for improvement

Upper Crab Creek

Lakeview consists of more than 10,000 acres located 8 miles north of Odessa, Washington. Recreation site facilities include: one accessible vault toilet, a gravel parking area, 10 picnic tables (2 accessible), an accessible boat dock, a concrete boat ramp, and two kiosks. Corrals at the ranch are usually available to hold trail horses overnight. The Odessa Lake Creek Trail winds for 12.5 miles through shrub-steppe uplands and the Lake Creek Canyon between the small town of Odessa and Pacific Lake. Nearly 3.5 miles of the trail's north section are open for motorized vehicle use. The trailhead, located on Odessa city property at the BLM boundary, has a graveled parking area and informational kiosk. Both the trailhead construction and a trail easement agreement were completed with a partnership agreement with the city of Odessa. Signs posted in downtown Odessa direct visitors to the trailhead.

Recreation at Lakeview has primarily been fishing and hunting. Since the Odessa Lake Creek Trails opening in 2001, the area has experienced increased use for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and wildlife viewing. A brochure for the Lakeview area will be available in FY2003.

Odessa Craters is a geologically unique site located 5 miles north of Odessa off Highway 21. Two trailheads with graveled parking areas and a 0.25-mile long accessible trail to Cache Crater were constructed in 2002. Also a 1.5-mile non-motorized loop trail that passes by Rock Rose, Wild Garden, and Amphitheater Craters was cleared and marked. Interpretive signs, area maps, and two benches are planned for this area during FY2003.

Twin Lakes and Coffeepot Lake

Twin and Coffeepot Lakes are located 12 miles west of Harrington, in Lincoln County, Washington. More than 14,000 acres of shrub-steppe, wetlands, and two fishing lakes at ***Twin Lakes*** offer great opportunities for a backcountry experience. Recreation use has primarily been fishing, hunting, and camping. Lakeside facilities include: one accessible vault toilet, a gravel parking area, 6 picnic tables, an accessible boat dock, two unimproved boat ramps, and a kiosk. A parking area and kiosk are located on the north side of Twin Lakes off Reiber Road. A 9.5-mile non-motorized loop trail winds through shrub-steppe uplands, past numerous wetlands, and through the upper Lake Creek Canyon.

Nearly 900 acres bordering ***Coffeepot Lake*** are managed as a game reserve. Coffeepot is a popular fishing and camping spot during the spring and summer, and some bird watchers come here every Fall to see thousands of geese gather in this small canyon during their southern migration. Recreation site facilities include: one accessible vault toilet, two gravel parking areas, 7 picnic tables, an accessible boat dock, an unimproved boat ramp, two kiosks. Brochures for both Twin Lakes and Coffeepot will be available in FY2003.

Wilson Creek

About 4.5 miles west of Wilbur, Washington, you'll find the Wilson Creek area and a 0.4 mile long trail. From Highway 2, turn south onto Govan Road, then west onto Lewis Bridge Road. This scenic overlook is marked on the Lincoln County Watchable Wildlife route on the Channeled Scablands map and in the Washington Wildlife Viewing Guide.

This trail was initially planned for handicap access, but its 7 percent slope does not meet those standards so it is now being promoted as a nature trail. Improvements planned for FY2003 include additional trail maintenance and directional signing.

Fishtrap encompasses a stretch of land that altogether totals about 8,000 acres located 30 miles southwest of Spokane in Lincoln and Spokane counties. The area has various habitats—from pine forest, to shrub-steppe and Palouse grassland. Other features include several wetlands, numerous meadows, and basalt cliffs. There are also two major lakes—Fishtrap and Hog. Recreational improvements include three kiosks and three graveled parking areas.

Visitor use has been increasing, with estimates of approximately 14,000 visitors in 2000 and 2001. With its close proximity to Spokane, future recreational use is expected to increase. More than 14 miles of non-motorized primitive trails offer a backcountry experience. Hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders are the primary visitors. This area is also open for dispersed camping. Each year the district issues about five Special Recreation Permits for the Fishtrap area to permit various activities, including orienteering, poker rides, hang gliding, and dog trials.

Escure/Rock Creek Ranch

This area consists of about 13,000 acres of public land in Adams and Whitman counties, approximately 50 miles southwest of Spokane. Since BLM acquisition of this land in 1999, recreational use has steadily been increasing there. An estimated 8,000 people visited this area during 2001. The Interim Management Plan with special visitor use rules remains in effect until a final management plan is completed.

Recreation use has primarily been fishing and hunting. Other recreation opportunities include hiking, biking, horseback riding, geology, wildlife and wildflower viewing. Recreation improvements include two kiosks. Other improvements are needed to provide for visitor information and access. Completion of a Recreation Management Plan is planned for FY 2003.

Special Recreation Permits

There were 14 special recreation permits issued for 17 events during 2002, as follows:

Wenatchee Field Office

- One commercial river shuttle
- One commercial ATV tour business
- One horseback poker ride
- One motorcycle cross-country race

Border Field Office

- One horseback poker ride
- Five permits for six dog trial events
- One commercial hang-glide training permit
- Three permits for five orienteering events

National Public Lands Day Events

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is an annual event, generally held in late September, and hosted by BLM offices nationwide. The events feature natural resource projects and invite public participation. The Spokane District hosted two NPLD events in 2002. One event was recreational improvements at an overlook at the Fishtrap site.

The second was held at the Douglas Creek site in north-central Washington. Work projects included installing an informational bulletin board near the trailhead entrance, installing a viewing bench near two interpretive signs, and installing an interpretive sign near a pillow basalt feature. All projects were accomplished with a crew of 14 volunteers, during a half day of work. The projects were installed along a portion of an old railroad grade. BLM has been working with community members to open this railroad grade for non-motorized trail use in the future. There is strong community support for this trail, and this was the third project performed on the site during the past year. Information about NPLD events for 2003 will be posted on the District website as it becomes available.

Fee Demonstration Program

Both Roza and Lmuma Creek recreation sites in the Yakima River Canyon are fee demonstration areas. Between May 15 and September 15, a \$2.00 per day/per vehicle user fee is charged at these two sites. The fee, collected at self-pay stations onsite, covers all approved activities at each site, including camping, parking, picnicking and boat launching. Frequent Yakima Canyon visitors can purchase a \$15 Seasonal Use Permit. Approximately \$9,000 a year is collected from each of these two sites. This money funds vandalism repairs, provides additional visitor services on weekends, maintains picnic and campsites, and helps cover administrative costs. Future plans are to add the Umtanum recreation site to the Fee Demonstration Program as well.

Wilderness

The Juniper Dunes Wilderness, located in Franklin County 15 miles northeast of Pasco, Washington, encompasses about 7,140 acres. Designated in July 1984, this wilderness contains some of the largest sand dunes in Washington, ranging from 200 to 1,200 feet wide and up to 130 feet high. The sandy, warm dunes environment (as high as 100 degrees in the summer) supports various grasses, shrubs, and western juniper groves. This unique habitat is home to a variety of mammals, reptiles and birds and is especially valuable habitat for birds-of-prey. The majority of the actions in the Juniper Dunes Wilderness Management Plan have been completed.

The Chopaka Mountain Wilderness Study Area is located in far northern Okanogan County on the east slopes of Chopaka Mountain and Hurley Peak and includes 5,518 acres of public land. Due to the proximity of the WSA next to the Chopaka Lake Recreation Site, most recreational use of the WSA is associated with fishing, hunting, and camping.

For additional information about recreation and wilderness in the Spokane BLM District, contact Lori Baker, District Outdoor Recreation Specialist, at 509/536-1200, or Diane Priebe, Wenatchee Resource Area Recreation Planner, at 509/665-2100.

Hazardous Materials

At the former Oroville landfill, the BLM continues to monitor ground water and sediment and to conduct site maintenance. This monitoring started in 1996 after remedial work was completed to address pesticide contamination at that site and will continue until about the year 2021.

Field staff also monitor all public lands for spilled or illegally dumped hazardous materials. Where any such materials are located, the BLM coordinates cleanup activities per a statewide Oregon and Washington environmental contract. Cost recovery is used for incidents where the responsible party is known.

For additional information about hazardous materials management in the Spokane BLM District, contact Jake Jakobosky, District Environmental Protection Specialist, at 509/536-1200.

Law Enforcement

The Spokane District law enforcement staff responded to numerous types of incidents in 2002, as listed below. Illegal dumping and/or littering is a big issue, with a high number of cited incidents, and other increases are noted in arson, firewood theft, and theft or vandalism of government property.

Summary of Spokane District Law Enforcement Incidents

Incident	1999	Jan-June 2002 (Actual)	Total 2002 (Estimated)
Assault	3	1	2
Arson	1	3	6
Assist other law enforcement agencies	2	3	6
Camping Violation	2	1	2
Driving under the influence	1	1	2
Dumped/abandoned vehicle	4	2	4
Fail-to-Pay User Fee	1	1	2
Firewood theft	1	4	8
Fireworks violation	0	1	2
Fishing violations	7	2	4
Gravel theft	2	0	1
Grazing violation	3	0	1
Hunting/target shooting violations	1	0	1
Illegal dumping/littering	15	24	48
Illegal substances	7	5	10
Off-road vehicle violations/damage	7	5	10
Park/driving violations	4	1	2
Realty trespass	3	1	2
Security details	3	3	6
Theft of government property	2	4	8
Vandalism/destruction of government property	4	6	12
Violation/lack of commercial permits	2	0	1
Wild horse violations	3	3	6

Assistance to Other Agencies or the Public

Type of Incident	1999	Jan-June 2002 (Actual)
Disabled Vehicle	3	3
Drowning (river)	1	1
Felony van stop	1	0
Public assistance/locked out of vehicle	4	0
Search & rescue, two involving fatalities	3	0
Vehicle accidents	2	1

The District is in the process of hiring a second ranger, to be assigned to the Wenatchee Resource Area.

Energy and Minerals

Fluid Minerals

Approximately 1,521 acres of public land in the Columbia Basin area of eastern Washington were made available for a competitive oil and gas leasing auction. These lands are in Benton County, within the Spokane District Border Resource Area.

In a separate action, other lands made available for competitive oil and gas leasing were as follows: 320 acres in Franklin County; 520 acres in Walla Walla County; 760 acres in Grant County; 6,614 acres in Yakima County, and about 4,132 acres in Benton County.

Mining Law Administration

This program involves uses authorized by the mining laws (including 1872 Mining Law, as amended), with most activity confined to northeastern Washington. During fiscal year 2002, BLM conducted 119 inspections, reviewed 6 notices (less than 5 acres disturbance), completed review of one plan of operations, and continued evaluation on other plans of operation.

In 2002, BLM continued inspecting inactive project areas where operators/claimants have allowed their mining claims to lapse in recent years without reporting reclamation as being completed. The BLM is continuing to evaluate the adequacy of reclamation of these sites. Under the new Mining Claim surface compliance regulations (43 CFR 3809) approximately 134 letters will be sent to claimants/operators informing them of the new requirements requiring a "financial guarantee" or bond for Notice Level operations.

For information about energy and mineral activities, contact Brent Cunderla at 509/665-2100.

Abandoned Mined Lands

Two of the six abandoned mine sites in Oregon/Washington that are of high priority are in Washington state: Kaaba Texas in Okanogan County and Cleveland located in Stevens County.

The BLM has completed reclamation of three abandoned lead/zinc mine sites on public and private lands under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The three sites (Kaaba-Texas, Cleveland, and Nighthawk) were considered hazardous and posed potential risks to public health and safety. Initial site investigations were recently started on several other mines to identify environmental and physical hazards.

For information about abandoned mined lands, contact Jake Jakobosky at 509/536-1200.

Solid Mineral Leasing

Solid mineral leasing activity in the Spokane BLM District involves uranium mine reclamation/remediation, coal mining, and sand and gravel operations on BLM-administered lands and Indian lands throughout the state. During FY 2001, the District conducted 28 inspections at all solid mineral lease locations.

Uranium on Indian Lands

The BLM continued to provide technical assistance to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) related to the Midnite Uranium Mine reclamation project, located about 45 miles northwest of Spokane on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Stevens County. The EPA is the lead federal agency for cleaning up this Superfund site. The BLM does not have any jurisdiction or involvement with the mill processing site associated with this mine. The mill and tailing ponds are located on private land east of the Spokane Indian Reservation near Ford, Washington. Western Nuclear, the operator of the Sherwood Uranium Mine, was awarded the National Conservation Award by BLM for excellence in mine reclamation during November 2001.

The BLM activities at Midnite included providing EPA with technical reports related to slope stability analysis and monitoring, surveying pit water levels, monitoring a new seep and reviewing and providing comments on EPA's consultant's technical approach to ground water modeling for EPA's Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Statement (RI/FS). During 2001, data collection associated with the 1998/1999 Interim Agreement Work Plan (at a cost of approximately \$3 million) was completed by Dawn Mining Company's consultant Shepherd Miller, Inc. The BLM was the lead agency responsible for overseeing this data collection effort.

Coal

The Centralia Coal Mine, located about seven miles east of Centralia, Washington, includes public subsurface managed by BLM. The Spokane District is responsible for maximizing economic recovery of federal coal and verifying production. During 2001, the Spokane District conducted three inspections, revised the lease bond amount, and approved continuance of a royalty rate reduction. The royalty rate is eight percent. The mine, which includes two federal coal leases, was sold in May 2000 to TransAlta, a U.S. subsidiary of a Canadian corporation. Production during 2001 was slightly less than three million clean tons.

Sand and Gravel on Indian Lands

Three mine and reclamation plans were reviewed and approved for Pacific Northwest Aggregate and Wheeler Logging Company for sand and gravel mining on three Yakama Indian Allotments adjacent to the Columbia River across from The Dalles, Oregon. This large sand and gravel operation produces more than a million tons of material per year, principally for the Portland, Oregon market. BLM projects at this site also included reviewing and approving an Environmental Assessment and Decision, two bonding recommendations, one bond modification, and production verification.

Other operating solid leasable minerals projects on Indian lands in Washington state include sand and gravel operations on the Yakama Indian Reservation and on the Nooksak Indian Reservation in Western Washington. The BLM also conducted inspections and production verification at these sites during 2001.

For additional information about solid mineral leasing, contact the District Mining Engineer, Kelly Courtright, at 509/536-1200.

Rangeland

Grazing Allotments

The Rangeland Management Program administers livestock grazing activities on approximately 104,000 acres in the Border Resource Area and approximately 183,000 acres in the Wenatchee Resource Area. Grazing leases are normally issued for 10-year terms and are reviewed prior to renewal. Fifty-seven (57) leases were renewed in Fiscal Year 2000, 41 were renewed in Fiscal Year 2001, and 18 were renewed in Fiscal Year 2002. It is anticipated that 29 grazing leases will be renewed in 2003. Grazing bills are issued yearly, authorizing up to approximately 34,100 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) in 312 grazing leases in the district. These grazing allotments range in size from 7 acres to 12,800 acres.

The Spokane District has developed a schedule of reviewing all grazing allotments for assessing Rangeland Health Standards. To date, district staff have completed rangeland health assessments on 17 allotments: six in FY 2000, seven in FY 2001, and four in FY 2002. Five grazing allotments are expected to be assessed for rangeland health in FY 2003.

For additional information about rangeland management in the Spokane BLM District, contact Rich Hubbard, District Rangeland Specialist, at 509/536-1200.

Rangeland Improvement Project - Watering Trough.



Wild Horse and Burro Program

Each year, the Spokane District hosts Wild Horse & Burro Adoption events and places about 130 animals. These adoptions are held through satellite adoptions in various locations in

Adoptions Scheduled for 2003 in Washington State

To date, the Spokane BLM has tentatively scheduled two wild horse and burro adoption events for 2003 in Washington state, so mark your calendars now:

- **May 16-18** in Yakima at the Central Washington Fairgrounds, in conjunction with the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington's Annual Rendezvous.
- **May 29-31** in Lynden (near Bellingham) at the Whatcom County Fairgrounds.

More detail about the adoptions, and any additional adoption locations, will be posted on the district's web page and updated as information becomes available. You can also call the Spokane BLM District at 1-800-997-2022 for recorded information. Flyer notices of future adoptions are sent to interested adopters on the district's mailing list.

Washington. Several volunteers from the Washington Chapter of the American Mustang and Burro Association (AMBA) and the Washington Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen (BCH) assist BLM staff in conducting these adoptions and providing post-adoption followup.

Three adoptions were held in 2001 (Ellensburg, Puyallup, and Longview). During 2002, two adoptions were held, one in Yakima along with the Backcountry Horsemen Annual Rendezvous and another in Longview with the American Mustang and Burro Association's Playday. Featured activities at these adoptions included wild horse gentling demonstrations and horse behavior sessions. A total of 159 animals were adopted in Washington state during FY2002.

The Burns, Oregon BLM office offers adoptions year-round on an appointment basis. Their phone number is 541/573-4400.

A national toll-free, year-round, phone number for the BLM Adopt-A-Wild-Horse-Or-Burro Program is 1-866-4-MUSTANGS. Staff answering that phone have information about adoptions nationwide.

For additional information about the wild horse and burro program, contact the District Wild Horse and Burro Natural Resource Specialist, Rick McComas, at 509/536-1200.

Wildlife Projects

Border Resource Area

- Surveyed 79,288 acres of wildlife inventories and 83,980 acres of terrestrial habitat monitoring throughout eastern Washington as part of Rangeland Health Evaluations, Special Status Species surveys, mining, forestry, recreation, and other multiple-use project clearances and challenge cost-share projects.
- Surveyed 2,520 acres of potential ground squirrel habitat to validate historic records and to locate new sites. Produced an active calling system to try increasing the survey detection efficiency for this species.
- Conducted 4,480 acres of sharp-tailed grouse surveys to locate potential lek/winter habitat for this State-listed species.
- Conducted 1,500 acres of pygmy rabbit surveys for this newly listed Federally Endangered species to locate potential habitat.

- Performed 5,000 acres of bat surveys throughout eastern Washington's shrub-steppe and forested habitats. These surveys detected 6 new species not previously detected on BLM-administered lands in the Border Resource Area.
- Conducted 18,000 acres of standardized National lynx detection protocol surveys to validate lynx habitat designation as part of the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (LCAS) and Conservation Agreement (CA). This is the second year of a 3-year protocol, with no lynx detections after the first year samples were analyzed.
- Conducted third year of burrowing owl population surveys to determine burrow availability, population estimates, and analyze habitat features of burrowing owls on 6,500 acres. Burrowing owl populations have declined throughout their breeding range. Availability of nesting burrows is one factor thought to limit populations, but birds often disappear from or fail to occur in what appears to be suitable habitat with burrow availability. Effective management and conservation of burrowing owl populations requires better understanding of the proximate and ultimate factors that influence burrow occupancy, reproductive success, natal recruitment, and annual return rates. The objectives of this project are to examine proximate and ultimate factors that influence

burrow occupancy, nesting productivity, burrow fidelity, natal recruitment and annual survival of Burrowing Owls in eastern Washington.

Shrub-Steppe Vegetation and Remote Sensing Project

Shrub-steppe provides important habitat for many wildlife species in Washington State, including the sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, and pygmy rabbit, which are currently state listed as threatened or endangered with extinction. Shrub-steppe once extended over nearly all non-forested land in Washington east of the Cascade Mountains, but now occupies only about half of its historical range. The continuous loss of this important habitat makes it imperative that spatial distribution and characteristics of shrub-steppe be mapped for effective conservation and management of obligate wildlife species.

The Spokane District is currently in its third year of conducting a watershed restoration analysis in eastern Washington designed to provide base-line data needed to conduct landscape-scale management across multiple ownerships. A broad-based analysis of current, historical and future conditions on the landscape would provide critical information relating to landscape linkages, corridors, riparian system restoration, weed management, as well as other data needed for use in activity-level plans, Recovery Plans, or Conservation Strategies/Agreements.

Quantifying landscape structure is essential for understanding landscape function and change, and subsequently to develop strategies for resource management. For more information regarding the vegetation classification scheme, data forms and methods, check the following website: <<http://www.or.blm.gov/gis/projects/vegetation/index.asp>>.

Staff conducted a vegetative assessment on 35,000 acres to complete the accuracy assessment, which is used to evaluate the correctness of the classified vegetative data. This GIS vegetative data layer will be available to the public by FY04.

- Completed 369 acres of lentic and 20 miles of lotic Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). A total of 1,430 acres of lentic and 23.5 miles of PFC reassessment were also completed as part of the Rangeland Health Evaluations.

Cooperative Projects

- The 13th annual International Migratory Bird Day event, where 127 bird species were detected.
- Local birders involvement in the second landbird species inventory on a BLM administered site to conduct point-counts and area searches for bird species use. Point-count monitoring is a common way to monitor bird populations. It provides the relative abundance of all bird species, and, over time, can detect trends. Area searches detect bird use for breeding, migration stopovers, corridors and dispersal. This survey method is used for temporal and

spatial comparisons, providing standardized quantitative data that will be used for abundance and trend analysis.

- Small mammal field guide development with Eastern Washington University to provide agencies and the public with an electronic field guide that can be used easily to determine tracks, scat, skulls and pelages of the common mammals in eastern Washington. The guide will be available to the public by FY04.
- Continuance of yearly wildlife habitat improvement projects with the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council, to include guzzler installation and maintenance, riparian improvements/plantings, bighorn sheep habitat enhancement, and construction of wildlife nesting structures for bats, blue birds, kestrels and a variety of other migratory landbirds.
- Provided technical leadership as a BLM representative on the National Lynx and Wolverine Biology Team.

Wenatchee Resource Area

- Inventoried 20 abandoned mines for bats. Located state candidate Townsend's big-eared bats in 4 new locations.
- Inventoried 3,600 acres for Washington ground squirrels, a federal candidate species. Located five new colonies.
- Provided technical assistance to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and The Nature Conservancy for bat inventories in central Washington.
- Provided technical assistance to private ranchers and farmers who are developing a Habitat Management Plan (Foster Creek HMP) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Cooperators on the committee include Foster Creek Conservation District, BLM, Douglas County Cattlemen, Douglas County Wheat Growers, Washington State Horticultural Commission Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, private consultants, NRCS, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, Washington Weed Board, Douglas County Banking Community, South Douglas Conservation District, Washington Cooperative Extension, Douglas Co. PUD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the Farm Service Agency.
- Cooperated with a video producer to produce an educational video about the value and sensitivity of shrub-steppe habitats and wildlife. The title of the video is *The Vanishing Shrub-Steppe*. This video is available for purchase through both the Spokane and Wenatchee BLM offices.
- Continued 12-year partnership with the San Juan Preservation Trust for monitoring two ACECs in the San Juan Islands. The Trust and its volunteers provide some 400 hours of service each year.
- Continued 9-year partnership with Wenatchee Valley College professor and students to Monitor Avian Productivity and Survivorship in a BLM riparian management area.
- Continued 8-year partnership with local bird volunteers to monitor land birds at two ACECs.

Moses Coulee/Beezley Hills

The Moses Coulee and Beezley Hills area were designated in the Spokane Resource Management Plan (RMP) as the Moses Coulee Management Area in 1987. Since the plan was approved, BLM has implemented the RMP through a variety of actions including; completing land exchanges, acquiring recreational access, constructing riparian exclosures, implementing grazing management plans, developing wildlife projects, promoting environmental education, etc. The area is the largest remaining block of native shrub-steppe in central Washington. Shrub-steppe has been listed as one of the most endangered ecosystems in Washington and contains a number of plant and animal species of concern.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has acquired property in the area to protect native habitat. BLM and TNC have formed a partnership to work together to protect and enhance habitat across the entire landscape. Other partners include Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Foster Creek Conservation District, the Chelan/Douglas Land Trust, private landowners and Douglas County. Threats to the landscape include noxious weeds, subdivisions, fire and uncontrolled recreational uses. There are numerous opportunities for restoration on BLM, State and private lands including lands now controlled by TNC. Several species proposed for listing are found on deep soil sagebrush-steppe habitat. This habitat is particularly scarce due to its desirability for farming.

The TNC is supporting a BLM request for Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) to purchase and restore some of these deep soil types and adjacent lands to provide connectivity within this large landscape. TNC and BLM have jointly funded new aerial photography, photo interpretation, and native seed gathering and growing for local restoration projects. In addition, TNC and BLM are jointly funding a new position to address the noxious weed and fire issues across the landscape. Douglas County is one of two counties in the state without a weed board. The Moses Coulee subbasin has been identified as restoration priority, and funding has also been requested through the Budget Planning System (BPS) for additional restoration work. The TNC continues to be a major partner in this effort.

Fisheries

The BLM has participated in the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit process for the past 7 years. In 2001, BLM participated in fisheries restoration demonstration projects by providing \$10,000 in funding to the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) for construction of one of three artificial pools built on private land. All three pools provided immediate habitat for the Fall Chinook run, which resulted in up to 50 adult salmon resting in each of the 3 pools. The uppermost pool at the Sandige bridge was snorkeled in 2002 and showed 300-400 Chinook juveniles.

Additionally, BLM constructed two other separate fish habitat restoration projects on BLM lands on the Entiat River. The first project was the Ardenvoir artificial logjam behind Coopers Store at River Mile 10.3. This project has resulted in two large log/debris jams that provide hiding and rearing cover for juvenile salmonids. The other BLM project area was at River Mile 15, where 2 boulder barbs were constructed to reduce the flow behind the barbs. This fisheries improvement project resulted in hiding and rearing habitat for 44 juvenile Chinook salmon in August of 2002.

The BLM fisheries program has continued to add large woody debris to the ongoing Ringer Road bank stabilization and fish habitat restoration south of Ellensburg, Washington. Large trees with rootwads attached were cabled to large boulders for ballast and filled in between the existing five large boulder barbs to provide more hiding and rearing cover for fish.

The BLM fisheries personnel continue to do Pacfish monitoring on eight grazing allotments to assess meeting of the Standards and Guides for grazing in riparian areas with listed fish.

Botany

During 2002, the district inventoried and assessed approximately 35,000 acres in Border Resource Area for special status species plants and plant community values. These botanical

surveys were done in areas where the district has, or is planning, range, wildlife, lands, recreation and timber activities. Most inventories (21,300 in Border Resource Area) were related to the range program. Special emphasis was given to inventory *Spiranthes diluvialis*,

Coal Creek Management Plan

A management plan was developed for 1,170 acres of public land in Lincoln County, approximately 20 miles northwest of Ritzville, Washington. This plan provides management guidance for the 710-acre Coal Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern and 460 acres in the Mohler area. A 1995 Conservation Agreement between the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended a management plan in this area to protect special status plant species. The primary goal is to maintain or establish upward trends of Washington polemonium and Spalding's silene. This management plan is posted on the District's internet site.

Howellia aquatilis, and *Silene spaldingii*, three Federally threatened species found in Okanogan, Spokane and Lincoln/Spokane/Adams counties, respectively.

In addition, the Border Resource Area botanist reviewed three project sites that have special status species plants to ensure conservation and ecosystem health objectives were met. Special emphasis was placed on *Polemonium pectinatum*, a plant that is a Bureau Assessment species and is considered Threatened by the state of Washington.

A long-term monitoring study of 10 populations of *Silene spaldingii* was continued, reaching its eighth year in 2002.

Consultation was initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with regard to listed species in shrub-steppe habitats of the Border Resource

area. A Programmatic Biological Assessment was written to address the majority of project activities in the covered area.

Watchable Wildflowers, a Columbia Basin Guide, is available at more than 50 locations throughout the Northwest.

For additional information about botany in the Spokane BLM District, contact Pam Camp, District Botanist, at 509/665-2100.

Cultural Resources

During 2001/2002, the Cultural Resources Program conducted inventories and reviews for more than 200 undertakings resulting in Class III inventory of about 18,000 acres and recording of 140 previously undocumented archaeological and historical sites. In consultation with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP), two of the five cultural sites formally evaluated were eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Eligibility of nearly 50 sites has been initiated in consultation with Native American Tribes and OAHP. Stabilization work was completed on the remaining water tank at the Turn Point Light Station, a National Register eligible property in the San Juan Islands. A rockshelter at risk for damage by erosion and an archaeological site threatened by recreation were stabilized. Approximately 50 sites were monitored to assess condition and management requirements.

In addition, the Cultural Resource Program has primary responsibility for cooperating and interacting with other land management agencies, Native American tribal governments, universities and public groups. Consultations and discussion of proposed undertakings and tribal concerns have been conducted with 11 tribes in the region. Consultations have included meetings with members of the tribal councils, staff, and members to discuss federal trust and cultural resource concerns. Field visits with tribal representatives and state agencies (including Washington Department of Natural Resources, OAHP and the public) have helped to identify resource and management concerns on public lands. In addition, Annual Root day celebrations were organized with members of the Spokane Tribe, Eastern Washington University and public groups to celebrate "First Roots," a traditional gathering of the first edible roots in spring. The event was held on BLM-administered lands in Lincoln County.

The BLM works with local universities to provide cultural and environmental education to university students through cooperative agreements with Eastern Washington University and Central Washington University. The Channeled Scablands Environmental Field School, a Challenge Cost Share project, provides opportunities for students to learn of the unique geologic history of the region, past environmental conditions, fauna and flora, and current land management practices while learning archaeological field techniques. Students participated in subsurface test excavation of a prehistoric archaeological site and cultural survey of approximately 200 acres of BLM-administered lands in the channeled scablands of eastern Washington.

The Central Washington University Archaeological Field School, a cooperative partnership with Central Washington University, provides archaeological field and laboratory experience to university students in the Saddle Mountains, an area of diverse cultural and resource values. During 2001-2002, the students surveyed approximately 900 acres of BLM-administered lands, recorded 16 sites and 107 isolated finds, conducted analysis of artifacts, and learned to use GPS and GIS systems to map and document cultural resources. The data gathered in this region will be vital to future management of the diverse resource and recreational interests.

The Cultural Program provided support for a statewide poster and guide for the annual Washington State Archaeology month in October. Along with other federal and state agencies, BLM provided education and outreach to area grade schools, as well as to local historical societies. The Cultural Program provided educational programs on artifact identification and historic site recording to a local preservation group that assisted the BLM's Cultural program in field documentation of historic farmsteads.

In cooperation with the Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the Spokane BLM District renewed a database exchange agreement for transferring cultural resource data for Washington state. The District continues to explore participation in a new regional database to manage cultural resource information.

In addition, artifact collections were prepared and submitted to the Museum of Anthropology at Washington State University under a new agreement for long-term curation of the District's collections.

For additional information about the Spokane BLM District cultural resources program, contact the District Archaeologist, Rich Bailey, at 509/536-1200.

Forestry

Forestry program work in FY2001 included: 230 acres of mechanical brush reduction on Mineral Hill and Uncle Sam Mountain areas, 321-acre Deer Creek timber sale with volume of 2,548 cubic hundred feet, 100-acre precommercial thinning in Black Canyon area, and 30 acres of mechanical brush reduction and tree planting in south Huckleberries Mountain area.

Forestry projects reviewed and approved during FY2002 included: 150 acres of precommercial thinning in the Black Canyon area, 49 acres of understory thinning on Mineral Hill, 111 acres of tree pruning in the Fishtrap area, 30 acres of understory thinning and timber sale on Edelweiss National Fire Plan area, and a 30-acre timber sale.

Forestry projects scheduled for FY2003 include:

- Precommercial thinning on 380 acres (280 acres in Cooper Ridge area and 100 acres in Huckleberry Mountain area).
- Habitat restoration on 350-400 acres in Little Vulcan Mountain area.

- Understory thinning on 111 acres in Mineral Hill area.
- Tree pruning on 50 acres in Fishtrap area.
- Timber sale encompassing 92 acres on O'Toole Mountain.
- Understory burning on 125 acres in Salmon Creek area.
- Huckleberry Timber Sale.

For additional information about the Spokane BLM District forestry program, contact Al Gardner at 509/536-1200.

Lands and Realty

Land Exchanges

Through the district's land tenure program, isolated parcels are exchanged for lands that are more efficiently managed, provide habitat for plant and wildlife species, and expand public recreational opportunities. Since establishing its land exchange program, the Spokane District has transferred 250 isolated parcels into private ownership, and in exchange BLM has received several dozen parcels that are more consolidated for public use and enjoyment in eastern Washington.

Central Washington Assembled Land Exchange (CWALE): This land exchange involves properties in six central Washington counties (Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, and Yakima). The Wenatchee Resource Area completed the first phase of this exchange on September 26, 2001. Through the Phase 1 transaction, BLM ultimately acquired 6,530 acres of non-federal lands (in two ownerships), in trade for 841 acres of federal land (14 separate tracts).

Approximately 4,091 acres of potentially suitable federal lands remain in the exchange proposal, as the exchange enters Phase 2.

BLM-DNR State Land Exchange: The Spokane BLM District is also processing a land exchange with the State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This proposal would trade 4,121 acres of BLM-administered public lands for 6,190 acres of DNR lands.

Columbia Basin Shrub-Steppe Exchange: The Spokane District received approval to proceed with the Columbia Basin Shrub-Steppe Exchange in FY-2002. As proposed, the transaction would exchange 55 parcels of public land located in Ferry and Stevens Counties, totaling approximately 5,300 acres, for private lands located in Adams, Lincoln, Stevens, Spokane, and Whitman counties. The BLM parcels are widely scattered and remote. They generally lack legal public access, provide only fragmented habitat values, are difficult to manage, and are located in counties where the vast majority of the land base is already in either State or Federal (USFS) ownership. The 55 individual parcels range in size from approximately 2 acres, to approximately 430 acres.

The non-Federal (private) lands under consideration for acquisition in the exchange are located in Lincoln and Spokane Counties within BLM's Upper Crab Creek Management Area, in the Rock Creek vicinity of Adams and Whitman Counties, and in southern Stevens County within BLM's Huckleberry Mountains area. The bulk of the lands consist of Columbia Basin shrub-steppe and contain known habitat for several Federal and State listed plant and animal species of concern, including the Columbian Sharptail Grouse, Spalding's Catchfly and Water Howellia. The shrub-steppe ecosystem has also been identified as one of the 10 most endangered ecosystems in the nation.

An environmental document is being prepared to address this proposed land exchange and its impacts. As the planning progresses, updates to this exchange proposal will be posted on the District's internet site. A public review will be provided, with public input considered in the analysis process.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Acquisitions

The Spokane District has four current LWCF project areas approved and funded by Congress: Cowiche Canyon, Rock Creek, Upper Crab Creek and Yakima River Canyon. During fiscal year 2002, two properties totaling 1,280 acres were acquired, one in the Upper Crab Creek project and another in the Rock Creek area.

During 2002, to resolve some access issues in a popular recreational area, the District purchased a 640-acre parcel in the Juniper Forest area using emergency/inholding funds.

For additional information about the Spokane BLM District land exchange program, contact realty specialists, as follows: Kevin Devitt of the Border Resource Area at 509/536-1200 or Bill Schurger of the Wenatchee Resource Area at 509-665-2100.

Other Realty Actions

The District has coordinated with Bonneville Power Administration on two Environmental Impact Statements, one for Schultz-Hanford Transmission Line and one for McNary-John Day Transmission Line. Some of the proposed routes cross public land.

Fire Program

During 2001, the Spokane BLM District had 10 wildfires that burned 2,420 acres of BLM-administered lands. Prescribed fire was conducted on 1,120 acres.

During 2002, 13 wildfires were reported on Spokane District lands in seven counties. Fuels treatment projects were conducted on 4,880 acres in five counties.

A list of specific accomplishments and support efforts of the Spokane District Fire Program are listed below:

- Conducted needed surveys and provided coordination for seven Firewise projects in support of the National Fire Plan. These projects were in Okanogan and Yakima counties.
- Provided instructors for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Colville Interagency Fire School and Wenatchee/DNR Fire School.
- Provided engines and overhead support on USFS fires on Wenatchee/Okanogan Forest, as well as to DNR in northeast and southeast Washington.
- Detailed engines and supervision to Vale District BLM to support firefighting efforts there.
- Detailed engine and fire crew members to Biscuit Fire in Oregon.
- Provided crew representative for SRV crews, 25 days on multiple fires across the west.
- Provided educational outreach to communities by giving presentations and distributing information about fire prevention. Some of the events that District staff participated in during 2001 and 2002 included the Fairchild Air Force Base Fun & Safety Fair, Valley Fest, Valley Hospital Children's Safety Day, Conconnully July 4th parade, Omak Stampede, and Malheur (Oregon) County fair.
- About a half dozen Spokane District employees were detailed to Geiger Field near Spokane during the summer of 2002 for 10 days to support the Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS).

Volunteer Program

During 2001, volunteers contributed a total of 8,832 hours assisting with various projects in several programs. Most hours were logged in the recreation, riparian/wetland, and cultural/

historical programs, with each having about over 2,000 hours each. Other programs that benefited from volunteer work were biological, wild horse, minerals, support services, and environmental. These volunteer hours equated to a savings of about \$136,000.

Among the projects accomplished were wild horse & burro adoptions, International Migratory Bird Day surveys, and recreational improvements at Fishtrap and Douglas Creek.

Environmental Register

Projects identified, to date, for FY2003 are listed below. Additional details for these and other projects will be posted on the district's internet, on the planning page, as the projects are developed.

Forestry

See Forestry section.

Lands and Realty

Columbia Basin Shrub-Steppe Land Exchange

Range

Vulcan Mountain

Acquired Lands in Lincoln County

Recreation

Escure/Rock Creek Activity Plan

The Slab, Yakima River Canyon, recreational improvements

Douglas Creek, trail work

Split Rock, recreational improvements

Chopaka Lake, campground improvement

Palmer Mountain, road and campsite improvement

Wilson Creek, recreational improvement



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